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SUMMARY

In reading Caesar and Tacitus we are not always likely to realize the enormous civilisatory influence of Roman expansion in the North-West. Even the professional archaeologist usually does but scant justice to these outlying provinces of ancient life, nay, he perhaps does them less justice than is done by others. The magnificent results of the excavations carried on now for almost twenty years by the German Empire along the line of the *Limes Romanus* are but seldom mentioned, although at the last Classical Conference at Ann Arbor a paper was read on this topic, and published in *Records of the Past*. All the more welcome is a recent contribution in the field by Heinrich Willers of the University of Bonn, in *Rheinisches Museum* LXII, on *The Roman Brass Industry in Germania Inferior*. The author starts from the clay vessels of the imperial times, the so-called Campanian and Arezzo goods, and shows how, under the influence of Greek artists, there had sprung up in southern Italy a large and prosperous trade in these simple yet graceful dishes. He then proceeds to show how during the second and third centuries of our era the rich clay banks of the Rhine valley were laid under contribution, and how their products gradually crowded out the imported goods. It is a significant fact, revealing the taste, and probably the social stratum, of the consumers, that the Italian manufactures show decorations from the Dionysiac circle, while the domestic manufactures are decorated with scenes of gladiatorial combats, or the fights of the amphitheatre. Of course, metal vessels are not as numerous as the cheaper earthenware. For in antiquity, as to-day, they were the envied possession of the wealthy only. How eagerly such treasures were appreciated is best shown by the circumstance, mentioned by Mr. Willers, that the veterans settled around Capua and near Corinth hastened to rifle the graves of their new homes of their contents, so that but few bronze vessels can be traced back to tombs, while the majority of those finds in the *Museo Nazionale* in Naples come from the buried city of Pompei. It is also significant for the spiritual attitude of the Northerners that it is different in Germany, where the graves are only now yielding up their contents to the unscrupulous archaeologist. The metal industry, too, had its home in Southern Italy, and the earliest specimens were imported from there. Soon, however, the Romans began to work the metal deposits of their new possessions, and gradually the imported vessels were replaced by native manufactures. While the new industry closely imitated the forms and the decorations of the imported models, just as our modern manufacturers would in similar circumstances, there are enough traces of lack of artistic feeling to distin-

guish the one line from the other. I use the expression "lack of artistic feeling" advisedly, for it was no lack of technical skill that is responsible for the imperfection. Quite to the contrary, the mere manufacture ought to excite our highest admiration.

These vessels were cast in hollow moulds, but so thin that they form the envy of our modern workers in cast metal; rarely does the thickness of a vessel exceed two millimetres. Yet the manufacturers understood how to polish these thin walls by means of a lathe! There is one decided difference, however, between the Italian product and the German: the Italian vessels consist of genuine bronze, that is a mixture of copper, tin, and lead, while the German imitations, doubtless owing to the proximity of the material, are real brass, differing from the bronze, when new, by their yellow color—bronze is brown. The fact that no attempt was made to imitate the color by artificial means shows clearly a certain barbaric taste, rejoicing in the bright gleam of the vessels, perhaps fondly dreaming that the inexperienced eye might take them for gold. I want to say in passing that the finding of these vessels throws some light on an important papyrus found in the Fayyum, and now in Leyden, a collection of recipes for metal workers, and filled with processes by which an ignoble alloy may be substituted for the genuine golden article. However that may be, the paper of Mr. Willers serves a most useful purpose in making us realize how much of a peaceful conquest was going on side by side with the clash of arms on the Western frontier of the Roman Empire.

E. R.

ADVERTISING THE CLASSICS

The *New York Times* for Dec. 29, 1907, had a short burlesque under the above title, from which we clip the following:

"Just think," said Julius Caesar moodily, "if there had been some scientific puffing of 'De Bello Gallico'! the sale would have been enormous". He glanced over the spook of the literary journal which Shakespeare had dropped, saw some of the book boomings there, and murmured:

"All Gall is divided into three parts, of which one is that of the publishers, one that of the reviewers, and one, which is the greatest of these, that of the authors themselves".

And, closing his eyes, in a day dream he saw before him the "Literary Gossip" department of the *Rome Daily Centurion* with this announcement:

"In 'De Bello Gallico', which has just come from the presses of Messrs. Dixit & Scripsit, Mr. J. Caesar gives a charming picture of Paris and vicinity. Mr. Caesar's opportunities for gathering information on his travels were legion. He had the good fortune of meeting some of the leading men